RESEARCH THEMES

ON

TERTIARY EDUCATION

A Guide to Researchers

October, 1999

INTRODUCTION

Hitherto, research in tertiary education in Mauritius has been very negligible. Several areas of interest such as expansion, the introduction of fees, demands for accountability, the need for academic planning as the tertiary education system expands and becomes more diversified, the articulation between tertiary education and the labour market, financial sustainability, are in need of research. It is therefore of paramount importance that necessary impetus be given to research in tertiary education. In this context, the Tertiary Education Commission has deemed it necessary to come up with this publication which is intended to act as a guide to all those who have an interest in the field.

Although this publication is targeted more specifically at B.Ed and M.A students of the University of Mauritius and the Mauritius Institute of Education respectively, who represent a potential for research that has yet to be fully exploited, established researchers or persons contemplating to embark on educational research would equally find it extremely useful. Readers will find inside a range of themes for research in tertiary education, from which to choose. The themes indicated are directly related to the major questions of concern to post-secondary education in Mauritius. Many of the themes have been chosen in view of their practical orientation and their relevance to policy makers and for developing policies. However, institutional and intellectual concerns have also been taken into account.

Tertiary Education in Mauritius is entering a phase of expansion and diversification. Furthermore, in an era of economic stringency, it becomes pertinent to re-examine practically all aspects of tertiary education. Only a comprehensive and sustained research effort can provide the information and analysis needed to fulfill these objectives. It is hoped that this publication will contribute to steer tertiary education research in the desired direction so that it can be more efficiently developed and used in light of the needs of our society and of the tertiary education institutions. More importantly, there is a fairly large group of "users" of research in tertiary education- policy makers, administrators, planners and government officials- concerned with the increasingly complex problems facing tertiary education, for whom results of the research would be of inestimable benefit.

To give a further stimulus to research in tertiary education, the Tertiary Education Commission would be glad to guide and develop further the research areas identified and to provide any technical support. Financial assistance may also be extended under the Commission's various research and related support schemes.

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Tertiary Education Commission

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7. Organizational Planning in Tertiary Education Institutions
8. Performance Indicators as a Basis for Evaluating the Tertiary Education Sector
9. Performance Indicators in Tertiary Education: A Comparative Study
10. Planning and Institutional Autonomy
11. Planning Buildings and Facilities in Tertiary Education
12. Planning Education for Reducing Inequalities
13. Predicting Future Number of Students in Tertiary Education
14. Problems in the Planning of Tertiary Education
15. Problems of Perspective Planning of Tertiary Education
16. Space Planning for Tertiary Education
17. Tertiary Education and Manpower Planning
18. The Economic Impact of a New University
19. The Importance of Planning in Tertiary Education
20. The Evaluation Systems in Tertiary Education

8. Research in Tertiary Education

1. An Assessment of Research Quality in the Tertiary Education Sector
2. Improving the Research Capacities of the Tertiary Education Institutions
3. Improving the Uses of Tertiary Education Research
4. Institutional Research: Vital Third Force in Tertiary Education
5. Organisation of Research: A Basic Condition for Efficient Research in the Tertiary Education Institutions
6. Postgraduates in the Organisation of Social Science Research
7. Relevance of Research in Advancing Major Social and Economic issues
8. Research Assessment Exercise in the Tertiary Education Institutions
9. Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Its Uses for the Public
10. Research into Tertiary Education: Processes and Structures
11. Research on Tertiary Education in Mauritius: An Analysis and Evaluation
12. Role of Research Component in the Teaching and Learning Process
13. Scientific and Research Work of the University of Mauritius
14. Strategies for Research and Development in Tertiary Education
15. Striking a Proper Balance Between the Demands of Scientific and Scholarly Research and Teaching
16. Suggested Future Approaches to Research in Tertiary Education
17. The Objectives, Means and Limits of the Planning of Research
18. Tertiary Education Institutions and Research: Challenge and Response

19. The Status and Role of Research in the Tertiary Education Institutions in Mauritius

20. Universities as Centres of Research: The Case of the University of Mauritius

21. University Research in Science and Technology and its Relationship to National Development

9. Student/Staff/Teaching/Learning in Tertiary Education

1. A Case Study of Innovative Method of Teaching and Learning
2. A Framework for Dealing with Students Complaints in the Tertiary Education Sector
3. A Study of Job Satisfaction of Personnel in the Tertiary Education Institutions
4. A Study of Students Coming from Disadvantaged Sections of Society
5. Academic Performance of Mature Students
6. Academic Staff Workload: Facts, Myths and Commentary
7. Age Structure of the Academic Staff of the Tertiary Education Institutions and Its Implications
8. Analysis of Academic Staffing Policies
9. Comparative Study of Local University Graduates and their Counterparts Studying Overseas
10. Continuing Education for the Teachers of the Tertiary Education Institutions
11. Entry Qualifications, Age and Degree Performance: A Case Study of the University of Mauritius Graduates
12. Evaluating the Performance of Academic Staff of the Tertiary Education Institutions
13. Evaluation of Instruction in Tertiary Education
14. Individual Factors in Students High Level Achievements
15. Information Technology in Education: National Policy Perspectives
16. Mobility of Staff of the Tertiary Education Institutions
17. Old Expectations, New Realities: The Academic Profession Revisited

18. Perceptions of Student Participation in Decision-Making in Tertiary Education Institutions

19. Personnel in the Tertiary Education Institutions

20. Professional Careers of the Tertiary Education Graduates in Mauritius

21. Qualities and Competence of Academic Staff of the Tertiary Education Institutions

22. Recruitment, Appointment, and Promotion of Academic Staff in the Tertiary Education Institutions

23. Revisiting Permanent Tenure in Academia in Mauritius

24. Scientific and Research Work of the University of Mauritius Students

25. Socio-Economic Origins and Attainment at the University of Mauritius

26. Staff and Student Perspectives upon the Role of the University of Mauritius Lecturer

27. Staff Development in Tertiary Education

28. Student Attitudes Towards Higher Studies and Perspective Jobs

29. Student-Faculty Interaction and the Organisation of the University of Mauritius

30. Student Work Placement: An Appraisal

31. Study of Student Personality Development in Tertiary Education: From a Perspective of the Upper Echelon of Management

32. Teaching and Learning: An Introduction to New Methods and Resources in Tertiary Education

33. Teaching Style: A Primary Determinant of Student Motivation

34. The Academic Careers of Science Students

35. The Academic Community in Mauritius

36. The Assessment of the University of Mauritius Teaching

37. The Destination of University of Mauritius Graduates

38. The Future for Part-Time Lecturers

39. The Impact of Information Technology in the Tertiary Education Sector

40. The Mobility of Degree Level Graduates of the University of Mauritius

41. The Multi-Media Approach in Teaching in the Tertiary Education Institutions

42. The Self-Teaching Process in Tertiary Education

43. University Teaching: A systematic Study of all Forms of Teaching and Examining Used in Universities

44. What do Students Expect of Lecturers ?

45. Why do Mauritians Undertake Higher Studies Abroad ?

10. Teacher Education

1. Demographic Trends and Teacher Training
2. New Directions In Teacher Education
3. Planning Teacher Demand and Supply
4. Research and Reform in Teacher Education
5. The Future of Teacher Education
6. The Quality of Teacher Education in Mauritius: An Analysis, Critique and Proposals for Improvement

11. Tertiary Education and the Labour Market

1. A Study of Graduate Employment
2. A Study of the Employment Pattern of the University of Mauritius Graduates
3. Professional Careers of the Tertiary Education Graduates in Mauritius
4. Steering Tertiary Education Towards the Workplace
5. Student Attitudes Towards Higher Studies and Perspective Jobs
6. Tertiary Education and Manpower Planning
7. Tertiary Education and Student Employment Needs
8. The Destination of the University of Mauritius Graduates
9. The Tertiary Education Institutions and High Level Manpower

12. Tertiary Education-Society Relations

1. Education in Mauritius in Response to the Changing Demands of Society
2. Interface: Universities, Societies and Governments
3. Public University and Private University
4. Science and Tertiary Education in Mauritius
5. Tertiary Education and Government: An Uneasy Alliance
6. Tertiary Education in a Technological Society
7. Tertiary Education in Mauritius as Seen by Parents, Students, Teachers and Employers
8. The Need for Policy and Structural Innovation in the System of Tertiary Education
9. The Relationship between Institutions of Tertiary Education and Industry
10. The Role of the Universities in the Social Education of the Country
11. The Tertiary Education Institutions and Adult Education
12. The University Curriculum and the Needs of Society
13. The University's Response to Societal Demands
14. Universities as Social Critics
15. University and Society
16. University Independence: The Main Questions